

**TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
March 10, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:30 p.m.

**INVOCATION:**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:** All members were present.

**PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:**

A Proclamation of the Town of Merrillville that March 10<sup>th</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 be declared Census Awareness Time and Proclaiming April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 be Census Day in the Town of Merrillville. All approved motion carries.

INDOT/LPA contract for Broadway from 73<sup>rd</sup> <sup>Ave</sup> to US 30 sidewalk project. The town manager mentioned that this is a project that started several years ago, and with your signatures we can get this down to the state and continue this project. Motion by Councilman Minchuk seconded by Councilman Pettit. Motion carries.

President Bella mentioned about the Safe Haven Baby Box. We have talked about it in the workshop and we have done some research. We have the Fire service willing to take care of the annual alarm fees and a contractor called 800 Board Up in Griffith willing to do the installation at no charge to the town. We checked with the Clerk-Treasurers office and Cender and Associates where we can set up a donation fund. We received a letter from Woman's Guild, Men's club, and Knights of Columbus of Saint Andrews Church on 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave. they have funds available and would very much like to make this happen at the Fire House on 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave. President Bella made a motion to have our attorney look at it and bring it back. Motion made by Councilman Minchuk seconded by Councilman White. All approved motion carries.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Accts. Payable Register Voucher Approval for March 10, 2020

Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of February 25, 2020. Approved by Councilwoman Uzelac, seconded by Councilman Spann. Motion carries.

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**BUDGET & FINANCE:**

Councilman White wants to table a resolution by the Clerk Treasurer.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

Councilman Minchuk mentioned the Public Works Dept. is getting ready for the spring clean up.

**COUNCIL AFFAIRS:**

Councilwoman Uzelac had no report.

**PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:**

Councilwoman Uzelac: I will be having a meeting possibly next week looking at the Police Chief.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Councilman Minchuk said he met with the Fire Dept. about a budget meeting. Applications for Police Chief have been completed. We will interview internals first and externals second.

Limiting town hall hours: We will be open to the public from 10-2 and then 12-4 so we can clean for the Corona Virus. We are going to add hand sanitizers around the building. The inner doors will be locked during these times. All approved motion carries.

**PARKS & RECREATION:**

Councilwoman Uzelac said Jan called to report that the park equipment for Crescent Lake has arrived. So they will be working on that.

**ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:** Councilman White says he's having a Grants and Finance committee meeting.

**ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS, & CENSUS 2020—Pettit**

Councilman Pettit stated wherever we have digital signs from Lamar, we will be putting census signs up. Councilman Pettit made a motion that we on the yard signs, but that public works can put the census signs where it deemed appropriate. All approved motion carries.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

Councilman Pettit stated that they had an economic development committee meeting. 3 petitions and 2 were tabled for 2 weeks from tonight, and the town manager is working on the third which is coming back to the council in ordinance form to grant tax abatement for a project here in the Town of Merrillville. A couple weeks ago we made a motion to have Mr. Svetanoff advertise for the sale of the 3 acre track which is in the Merrillville Committee Center. Councilman Pettit read a letter from Epic Center Indiana. Epic Center will be tabled.

**UTILITY LIAISON:**

Councilman Spann had no report.

**ABANDONED PROPERTIES:** Councilman White had no report.

**TOWN IDENTITY & BEAUTIFICATION:** Uzelac

**COMMUNITY & RECREATIONAL CENTER: Minchuk & Pettit**

Councilman Pettit said their having a meeting Thursday night at 5 p.m. We will be discussing the kitchen citation and monument signs.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORT:**

**GENERAL ORDERS:**

***FIRST READING: (Discussion and Roll Call)***

***SECOND READING:***

**Ordinance 20-01, (Discussion, Public Comment and Roll Call-Vote)**

An ordinance amending ordinance nos. 12-35 and 13-04, being, "An ordinance establishing a registration and inspection program for rental housing units located within the Town of Merrillville and establishing minimum standards for rental housing within the Town of Merrillville, and repealing all town code sections and ordinances, or parts thereof, in conflict herewith. Motion carries 6-1.

**Ordinance 20-02, (Discussion, Public Comment and Roll Call-Vote)**

Amendment of Salary Ordinance creating a new position in the Clerk's office of Payroll Administrator. Councilman Spann made a motion, Councilman White seconded, and all in favor motion carries.

**RESOLUTIONS: (Discussion and Voice Vote)**

**Resolution 20-10, (Discussion and Voice Vote)**

A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, amending, in part, Resolution 20-04 encumbering monies from the 2019 budget into the 2020 year. Motion by Councilman Minchuk. Motion carries.

**Resolution 20-11, (Discussion and Voice Vote)**

A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana transferring monies of the 2020 Budget within the General Fund. Motion by Councilman White, seconded by Councilwoman Uzelac. This was tabled.

**BZA ACTIONS:**

Petitioner: Louis O'Donnell IV  
Owner: Louis O'Donnell IV  
Request: Variance of Use Approval  
Purpose: To Allow a LED advertising display  
Location: 7606 East Lincoln Highway  
Zoning: C-3 Highway Commercial Zoning district  
Case#: Z3uV2-2020  
Motion approved by Councilman Minchuk, seconded by Councilman Spann 6 yes 1 abstention.

**Petitioner:** Gary Potts  
**Owner:** Calumet Park Cemetery  
**Request:** Variance of Use Approval  
**Purpose:** To Allow a LED Electronic Message Center  
**Location:** 2305 West 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave.  
**Zoning:** R-1 Residential Zoning District  
**Case#:** Z1uV1-2020

All approved motion carries.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS** Having Mike Deppe Attorney for BZA/Planning. Moved by Councilwoman Uzelac. Seconded by Councilman White. 5 in favor Councilman Hardaway and Councilman Pettit opposed. Motion carries 5-2

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Becky Matia mentioned she would help anyone with the census form.  
Ernestine Barnes- Merrillville Lake Apartments, Ernestine mentioned she had pictures of the work that has to be done. She asked the management why they were not renewing her lease they told her none of her business.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

MCC Meeting Thursday March 19, at 5:00p.m.  
RDC Meeting Tuesday March 24, at 6:15 p.m.  
Town Council Meeting March 24 at 6:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** All motion carries.

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Rick Bella, President

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Kelly White Gibson, Clerk-Treasurer

OK